PELAGIC DRIFT GILLNET GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

This log contains detailed questions about the gear fished. Complete a new log for each uniquely configured gear (as defined below) **hauled** during a trip. These unique configurations may be based on variables such as net length, net color, mesh size, dropline length, *etc*. Any changes in these fields requires the completion of a new Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log. Number each gear configuration sequentially.

If the gear is set out and hauled more than once during a trip, or if two or more distinct gears are tied together for a haul, do not complete a new Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log for the multiple hauls or combined gears. Rather, record on the Pelagic Drift Gillnet Haul Log which gear numbers are being hauled. In addition, record any other information necessary to understand the manner in which the gear was set and/or hauled in COMMENTS ON METHODS OF SETTING OR HAULING GEAR.

If the vessel has two or more identical gears which are hauled separately, complete only one Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log and record the consecutively assigned numbers of all identical gears described in GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1). See the pelagic drift gillnet definitions below and GEAR NUMBER(S) (#1) for more information on defining and numbering gears.

If information is unavailable or unknown to any question except a "No/Yes" question, then record a dash (-) in the field. If the answer to a "No/Yes" question is unknown, record a "9" on the line next to the code for "No" to indicate that the field was not skipped, but the answer is unknown. If a field relates to a question to which you previously answered "No", leave the field blank.

Become familiar with the following definitions.

DEFINITIONS

Pelagic Drift Gillnet: Vertical panel(s) of netting suspended in the water column which may be attached to free floating buoys and/or a high flier at one end, and tied off to the vessel at the other end. Large mesh netting is stretched between a floatline at the top and a leadline at the bottom, and supported by vertical endlines, or up and down lines on each end. Panels of netting may be separated by a space or escape panel.

Net: A panel of netting which may be pieces of manufactured nets sewn together. The entire drift gillnet string may be referred to as "the net".

Space or Escape Panel: A space between nets, continuous from the floatline to the leadline, that may be used to ease setting and hauling the gear. This space is only considered an escape panel if the captain indicates that the space is set intentionally for marine mammals or sea turtles to swim through.

Gear: A section of continuous netting of exactly the same characteristics between two endlines (up and down lines) that **may** have a space, or escape panel following it. For the purposes of this log, a net plus a space (if present) is synonymous with gear.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A, B and D** refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

1. GEAR NUMBER: Record the consecutive number assigned to each uniquely configured gear hauled and for which characteristics are described. See the definition of gear in the introduction, and the illustration of the drift gillnet gears in Figure 1.

NOTE: Gears should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they are hauled aboard the vessel. If two or more identical gears are used, assign consecutive numbers to each gear and record all of these numbers on one Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log.

(Reference Figure 1.) The first uniquely configured gear (closest to the vessel) is "1", and its characteristics (including the space or escape panel) will be recorded on one Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log. The

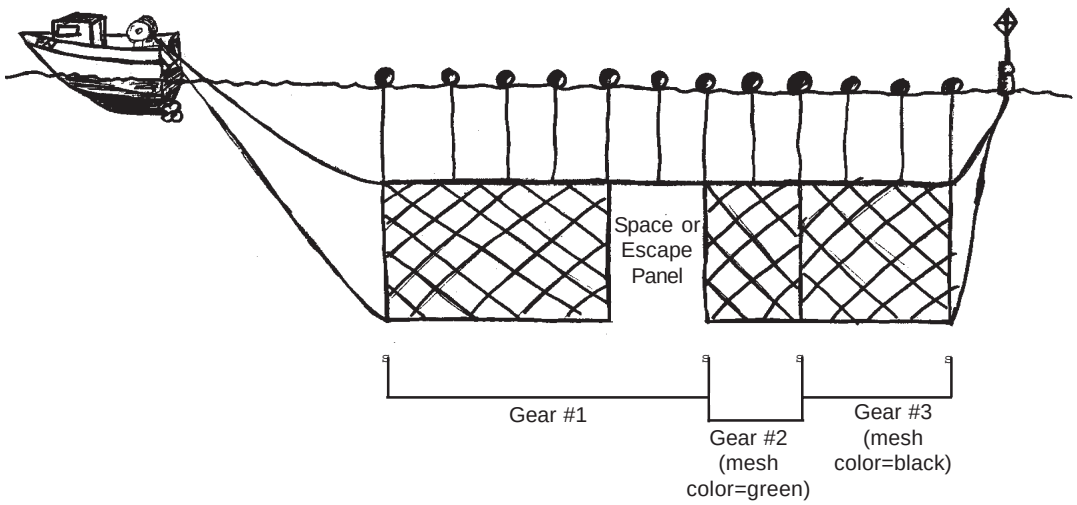

Figure 1. Pelagic Drift Gillnet gear numbering example.

next two gears are "2" and "3", and their unique characteristics (as defined by the different colors of net webbing) will be recorded on a second and third Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log.

2. NETS STACKED?: Record whether nets in this gear are stacked by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes, describe or draw the configuration in OTHER COMMENTS.

NOTE: Nets are stacked if two panels of netting are sewn together vertically, one on top of the other, to intentionally fish "double deep."

NOTE: If "Yes", record each net in the stacked configuration on a separate Pelagic Drift Gillnet Gear Characteristics Log. The gear on "top" may have no leadline, while the "bottom" gear may have no floatline, droplines, or floats.

NET CHARACTERISTICS

3. LENGTH: Record, in whole feet, the horizontal distance of a net in this gear, as measured along the floatline. This information may be obtained from the captain.

NOTE: If a space or escape panel follows a net, **do not** include this distance in the net length.

4. HEIGHT: Record, to the nearest tenth of a foot, the height of a net in this gear. This value is obtained by measuring the length of the endline, or up and down line, on the end of a net where the meshes are attached. This information may also be obtained from the captain.

5. MESH SIZE: Record, to the nearest hundredth of an inch, the mesh size used in a net in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

6. MESH COUNT, VERTICAL: Record the number of vertical meshes of a net in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

7. HANGING RATIO: Record the fractional ratio of the length of the floatline for one net to the length that the net would be if it was taken off the floatline and stretched out. This value can be calculated by counting 10 or 12 meshes horizontally, measuring the length of the floatline they are attached to, and comparing that distance to the stretched out length of the meshes. This information may be obtained from the captain.

Example: If the stretched out distance of the meshes is two times the length of the floatline, record "1/2".

8. TWINE SIZE NUMBER: Record the twine size number (industry standard) of the net webbing used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain. See Appendix Q. Conversion Tables for a listing of industry standard twine size numbers and their corresponding deniers, breaking strengths, and number of feet per pound.

9. NUMBER OF STRANDS: Record the number of strands of twine in the net webbing used in this gear. This information may be obtained from the captain.

Example: Monofilament has 1 strand.

10. MATERIAL: Record the material of the net webbing used in this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Nylon.
9 = Other, record the net webbing material on line 10A.

11. COLOR: Record the color of the net webbing used in this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

00 = Unknown.
01 = Clear.
02 = White.
03 = Pink.
04 = Black.
05 = Green.
06 = Blue.
07 = Multi-color, record all colors on line 11A.
08 = Red.
99 = Other, record the color on line 11A.

NOTE: "Multi-color" = 07, if more than 1 color of net webbing is used in **one** net. For example, a section of black webbing is patched into the middle of an otherwise green gear.

GEAR CHARACTERISTICS

FLOATS

12. USED?: Record whether floats are used on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

13. NUMBER: Record an approximate **total** number of floats used on this gear. This number must include the number of floats across a space that may occur at the bridle at the end of a net. This information may be obtained from the captain.

14. DISTANCE BETWEEN: Record, in whole feet, the **average** distance along the floatline between the floats used on this gear.

DROPLINES

15. USED?: Record whether droplines are used in this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

16. LENGTH: Record, in whole feet, the length of the droplines used in this gear. This length is the distance from the floats (at the water's surface) to the floatline. This information may be obtained from the captain.

SPACE OR ESCAPE PANEL

17. USED?: Record whether there is a continuous space or escape panel at the bridle following a net(s) by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes, describe or draw the space or escape panel in COMMENTS ON DESCRIPTION OF SPACE OR ESCAPE PANEL.

NOTE: A space or an escape panel is associated with the gear closest to the vessel. Do not count the lack of netting between the last gear and the highflyer as a space.

18. WIDTH: Record, to the nearest tenth of a foot, the width of the space or escape panel used between the nets in this gear.

LEADLINE

19. USED?: Record whether a leadline is used on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

20. WEIGHT: Record, in whole pounds, the **total** weight of the leadline used in this gear. Do **not** include the weight of any additional weights removed as this gear is hauled aboard the vessel. Include in comments any calculations used to determine this value.

NOTE: This value should **not** include any weight added for a net space (see following section and Figure 1) unless actual leadline material is used across the space.

ADDITIONAL WEIGHTS

21. USED?: Record whether any additional weights are used on the leadline of this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

22. WEIGHT: Record, in whole pounds, the **total** weight of the additional weights used on the leadline of this gear. Do **not** include the weight of the leadline itself.

ACTIVE MARINE MAMMAL DETERRENT DEVICES

An "active" marine mammal deterrent device is a device which emits sound which may be detected by a marine mammal.

23. USED?: Record whether "active" marine mammal deterrent devices (*i.e.* pingers) were used on this gear when it was set by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

24. NUMBER: Record the number of active marine mammal deterrent devices (*i.e.* pingers) on the gear **when it was set**. This information can be obtained from the captain if the set is not observed.

PASSIVE MARINE MAMMAL DETERRENT DEVICES

A "passive" marine mammal deterrent device is a device which may provide reflection of marine mammal echolocation signals.

25. USED?: Record whether "passive" marine mammal deterrent devices were used on this gear when it was set by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

Example: Net material that is designed to be more acoustically visible to marine mammals.

26. NUMBER: Record the number of passive marine mammal deterrent devices on the gear **when it was set**. This information can be obtained from the captain if the set is not observed.

NOTE: If some or all of the nets in the gear are made from material that is designed to be more acoustically visible to marine mammals, record the **number of nets** within the gear made from this material.

ANCHOR

27. TIED TO VESSEL OR OTHER ANCHOR METHOD USED?: Record whether the gear is tied directly to the vessel, or another anchoring method is used on this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

NOTE: If any gear in a particular set/haul is considered anchored, then all other gears in the same set/haul are also considered anchored.

28. WEIGHT: Record, in whole pounds, the **total** weight of the anchor(s) used to hold this gear in place.

This information may be obtained from the captain.

NOTE: If the gear is tied directly to the vessel and no other anchors are used, record "0".

29. WEIGHT - ACTUAL OR ESTIMATED: Record whether the weight recorded in #28 is an actual or estimated weight by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

1 = Actual.
2 = Estimated.

NOTE: If the gear is tied directly to the vessel and no other anchors are used, leave this field blank.

30. METHOD: Record the method used to anchor this gear by placing an "X" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Tied to Vessel Only.
2 = Anchored Only.
3 = Tied to the Vessel and Anchored.
9 = Other, record the anchor method on line 30A.

COMMENTS

COMMENTS ON DESCRIPTION OF SPACE OR ESCAPE PANEL:

Describe the location of the space or escape panel and indicate whether the captain uses this space between the nets for the efficiency of setting or hauling of the gear, or for marine mammals or sea turtles to swim through. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log.

NOTE: If "Yes" is recorded for SPACE OR ESCAPE PANEL USED? (#17), comments must be recorded here.

Example: "Although there is no designated escape panel in the net, when nets are set together, there is an approximate 100' space between them. The captain says this space is for hauling purposes only."

COMMENTS ON METHODS OF SETTING OR HAULING GEAR:

Describe the gear and procedures used to set and/or haul this gear. Describe whether the net is hauled directly onto a net reel, along the side of the vessel, or by some other method. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log.

Examples: "Gear is set and hauled directly off the net reel, and mending is done during haulback."

"Gear is set from the stern with the net drum, and hauled at the stern, through level wind, onto the net drum."

OTHER COMMENTS:

Record any additional information about this gear. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.